

Remarks

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks.

With entry of the present amendment, claims 1-14 and 16-18 are pending. Claim 13 is allowed.

Statutory Subject Matter

The Office has asserted a subject matter rejection of claims 6-11 under 35 U.S.C. § 101. As suggested by the Office, claims 6-11 have been amended to indicate that the methods are computer implemented. This should place claims 6-11 in allowable condition. Such action is respectfully requested.

Patentability Over Kasichainula in view of Beck

The Office has asserted a rejection of claims 1-12, and 14-18, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,567,861 ("Kasichainula") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,651,109 ("Beck").

The Examiner discussed the reasons for allowance of claim 13 in a telephone interview conducted on April 21, 2004. See e.g., Interview Summary, mailed April 23, 2004, Paper No. 20. In view of the Interview Summary, Applicants have amended the remaining claims in order to obtain allowance of all claims for reasons similar to those of claim 13. For similar reasons, Kasichainula in view of Beck also fails to teach or suggest amended claims 1, 6, 9, 12, 14, and 16. For at least this reason, independent claims 1, 6, 9, 12, 14, and 16 should now be in condition for allowance. Such action is respectfully requested.

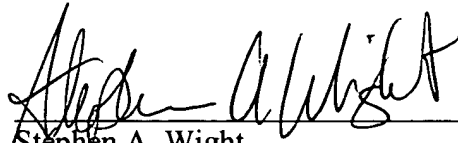
Additionally, dependent claims 2-5, 7-8, 10-11, and 17-18 should be allowable for at least the reasons stated for the respective independent claims upon which they depend. Such action is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

The claims in their present form should now be allowable. Such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

KLARQUIST SPARKMAN, LLP

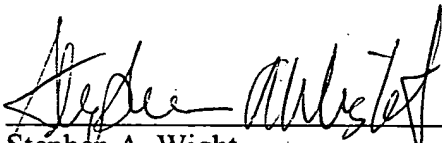
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- ☒ A check in the amount of \$180.00 is attached.
- ☒ Please charge any additional fees that may be required in connection with filing this amendment and any extension of time, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 02-4550. A copy of this sheet is enclosed.
- ☒ Please return the enclosed postcard to confirm that the items listed above have been received.

Respectfully submitted,

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